

us under the Nation's labor laws. The Congressional Accountability Act exempts interns from the employer-employee relationship covered by the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Mr. Speaker, Congress should give individuals attempting to gain competitive private sector jobs the same opportunities that individuals wishing to work on Capitol Hill have enjoyed for years. I urge my colleagues to support the Job Skills Development Act of 1995.

#### PRESERVE MEDICARE AND PROVIDE COVERAGE TO UNINSURED AMERICANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, the gentleman from California [Mr. STARK] is recognized during morning business for 4 minutes.

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, Republicans talking about saving Medicare remind me of the man who murdered his parents and begged for mercy as an orphan.

They are making a blatant attempt to distract the public from a tax bill that takes \$87 billion out of the Medicare Part A Trust Fund over the next 10 years and gives it to the rich. And Republicans are crying crocodile tears about the trust fund being in danger?

"Hello, Earth to Republicans: Your hypocrisy is showing."

I urge Republicans to reread their views on last year's health reform bill. In that bill, Democrats saved the Medicare Trust Fund by getting all health spending under control. The billions we saved in Medicare helped the uninsured, expanded Medicare benefits and provided a prescription drug benefit for everyone. Democrats used Medicare savings to improve the entire health care system.

Where were the Republicans? They voted against any and all Medicare savings. In their dissent 10 months ago, they said "reimbursement levels \* \* \* have reached potentially disastrous levels" and "additional massive cuts in reimbursement to providers \* \* \* will reduce the quality of care for the Nation's elderly."

Now the militant radical right wants to cut three or four times more than we did. How can they now say it will not hurt quality?

NEWT can't reform the system with more managed care and vouchers. I rather resent Republicans suggesting that my mother and the Nation's seniors are either senile or so stupid that they will not see through his double-talk.

My mother knows that managed care costs more and means less choice of doctors and hospitals. My mother knows that Republican vouchers to buy private insurance will never be worth enough to pay for her health care. NEWT's plan to push America's seniors into plans with less choice—all the while saying he gives them more choice—is a dog that just will not hunt.

Republicans intend to disrupt people's health plans, force them into managed care, and they know it will save little or nothing. Last week, CBO said that Medicare spends more for HMO enrollees than had they remained in the fee-for-service sector—about 5.7 percent more. Until you Republicans know more about how to pay for seniors in managed care, you are just whistling in the dark, and playing fast and loose with a sacred trust.

We Democrats have always worked with responsible Republicans on ways to improve Medicare and reform the entire health care system. But \$300 billion in Medicare cuts for the sake of tax cuts for the rich will destroy not only Medicare, but the entire U.S. health care system.

We must not only preserve Medicare, but we must provide coverage to 47 million Americans who are today without coverage. You Republicans proved your political dominance over the House in the past 4 months. Now, why not show us you stand for something besides insurance company profits and tax cuts for the very rich. You are in complete control of this Congress and must be judged by your ability to legislate in the best interests of all Americans—not just white, rich, suburban radicals.

So let us get together and fix the "break" the way it ought to be fixed, with universal coverage and reform for all Americans.

#### THE PENSION PROTECTION ACT OF 1995

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. SAXTON] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing a bill today which is known as the Pension Protection Act of 1995. I must say that usually I am pleased to introduce a bill. Today I say that I regret that it is necessary to introduce this bill. But it is, because when American workers get their check at the end of the pay period and they look at the check stub, they look to see, how much has been deducted for their contribution to their pension plan. And those pension plans have become very, very important, because those are essentially savings that the American worker is putting aside for his or her retirement.

The Clinton administration has been up to some mischief, I believe, that is destructive to that process. So the Pension Plan Act of 1995, which is co-sponsored by our leadership on the Republican side, and I certainly invite our Democrat friends to join with us as well, is an attempt to protect the American worker from the mischief of the Clinton administration.

It is interesting to note that something over \$3.5 trillion are in private pension funds today. This is the magnitude of the risk that has been

brought about by the Clinton administration. Why? Because the administration has targeted private pension funds as a new way to finance their liberal social agenda.

Faced with an angry revolt of voters last November against too much Federal spending, President Clinton and his Department of Labor are trying to use private pensions to do what they used to do through old fashioned taxing-and-spending. These social investments include: Public housing, infrastructure, and pork-barrel projects.

The administration has dubbed these social projects "Economically Targeted Investments" or ETI's, but I prefer to call them PTI's or "Politically Targeted Investments."

Let me emphasize that targeting private pension fund investments is a radical and dangerous idea. ETI's violate the clear mandate of the Federal law that Congress passed to protect private pensions—the Employee Retirement Income Security Act or ERISA—which requires that a pension fund manager must give complete and undivided loyalty to the pension beneficiaries.

Let me quote directly from ERISA: A pension fund manager must "discharge his duties with respect to a plan solely in the interest of the participants and beneficiaries and for the exclusive purpose of (I) providing benefits to participants and their beneficiaries; and (II) defraying reasonable expenses of administering the plan."

Besides ETI's obvious conflict with ERISA, the best economic research indicates that pension funds that target social investments produce below market returns.

The Clinton administration's ultimate objective is to establish an ETI quota for every private pension fund.

What Secretary Reich would make permissible today, will become compulsory tomorrow.

Today, I am introducing a bill that will protect the 36 million private pension participants from President Clinton's pension fund grab. My bill, the Pension Protection Act of 1995, will not alter the fiduciary duties laid out in ERISA. Instead, my bill will simply reiterate that the act means what it says, no more, no less.

ERISA could not be clearer. Trustees may not invest in ETI's because by definition ETI's seek to benefit someone other than solely the participants and beneficiaries of the pension plan; and ETI's pursue an objective other than exclusively the interest of the plan's participants and beneficiaries.

The security of our pension funds is no small issue. Every American who plans on retiring someday should be very concerned about that the Clinton administration is up to. I believe that if we act quickly, we can ensure that everyone working today can rest easier if my bill to protect their pensions is passed.